



Mark 4:10-12

And he taught them many things by parables, ...

Mark 4:10-12

And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

Mark 4:10-12

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery (secret) of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

“That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.”

Mark 4:13

And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

Mark 4:33-34

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

PARABLES HARD TO UNDERSTAND

Parable Gk "*parabole*" (para-bow-LAY)
= "to place beside, to cast alongside"

- a story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching

PARABLES HARD TO UNDERSTAND

Rule No. 1

LOOK FOR THE KEY SPIRITUAL TRUTH
(Don't spiritualize pp & places
in the earthly story!)

What is the **STORY** of this parable? Luke 18:4-5)

- Unjust judge
- Widow pleaded for justice
- Judge refused
- Widow kept bothering the judge
- Finally the judge relented

"... Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she wearies me..."

The Parable Applied (Luke 18:6-8)

Jesus: Did you hear what the unjust judge said?

"I don't fear God or regard man – but still I will act so that the woman does not tire me out."

Conclusion: Won't God avenge His own elect?

If an unjust judge will deliver justice because of persistence, won't God the righteous judge deliver justice speedily?

Luke 18:1

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint (*give up hope*)...

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PARABLES HARD TO UNDERSTAND

Rule No. 2
 UNDERSTAND THE EARTHLY STORY
 IN CONTEXT OF JESUS' TIME & TEACHINGS

Mark 11:23 – MOUNTAINS?

LOOK AT THE
 CONTEXT

Luke 16:1-8

And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Luke 16:1-8

Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

Luke 16:1-8

So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

And he said, An hundred (100) measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty (50).

Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred (100) measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore (80).

Luke 16:1-8

And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

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Luke 16:10-13

... He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.
 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?
 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luke 16:10-13

... No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:9-13

Teaching about money:

1. Be a faithful steward – quality of faithful stewardship

Luke 16:9-13

Teaching about money:

1. Be a faithful steward – quality of faithful stewardship
2. Do not serve money – confusion of master and means

Luke 16:9

... And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of (by) the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

Luke 16:9

... And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of (by) the mammon of unrighteousness (earthly wealth); that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations (the world to come).

PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER

Spiritual truth:
Use earthly wealth as a faithful steward serving God,
by blessing those who need it.

PARABLES HARD TO UNDERSTAND

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Commercial Practices

Law:

- Jews were forbidden to take interest from fellow-Jews when they lend money (Exodus 22:23; Lev 25:36; Duet 23:19)

Practice:

- Commodity profit share!
- Valuation of loan in oil or wheat ++

Commercial Practices

COMMODITY – OIL

- Principal contribution valued to 50 measures.
- Expected profit share in x years = 100 % (say 10% for 10 years).

Total amount returned in 10 years (principal plus profit)
= 50 + 50 = 100 measures!

Commercial Practices

COMMODITY – WHEAT

- Principal contribution valued to 80 measures.
- Expected profit share in x years = 25 % (say 5% for 5 years).

Total amount returned in 5 years (principal plus profit)
= 80 + 20 = 100 measures!

Luke 16:1-8

And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely:.....

PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER

Spiritual truth:

Use earthly wealth as a faithful steward serving God,
by blessing those who need it.

Luke 16:14

... And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

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